The Qualitative Doctoral Dissertation Proposal

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1. **Introduction**

**The proposal is a document aimed at convincing a supervisor and a committee that the topic is worth researching and the candidate has the wherewithal to carry it out. There are three qualities in general that are similar in all proposals. They all have Context, Content, and Study (Notes on the Writing or Direction as to the research of the topic).**

1. **The Context**

The qualities of the dissertation proposals and dissertations naturally reflect their scholarly context, including implicit understanding of the nature of a research university and the apprenticeship education of doctoral candidates.

Qualities of Dissertations---Proposals are working documents on the way to the production of a dissertation, and the qualities of a proposal are very much guided by the qualities of a dissertation. A Doctoral Dissertation must make a substantive contribution to scholarship. It must address a clear problem. The problem need not be simple, it is not stated in a single sentence, and it need not be conceptualized in traditionalized, empirical hypothesis-testing terms. But it must be clear and explicit. The problem addressed must not have been addressed before, or it must have been incompletely or inadequately addressed---in other words, a doctoral dissertation is meant to make an original contribution to scholarship**. It is expected to be systematic rather than selective.** It should have relevance beyond the local conditions of its execution. It should acknowledge the research context within which it is developed. It must make an argument and, regardless of the meaning of argument, the conclusions must be adequately supported. Finally, a doctoral dissertation should demonstrate the author’s sensitivity to the **connection between method and meaning**. The author should show an awareness of the relationship between the conceptual and methodological moves made during the conduct of the study and the final outcomes of the study. The Author has to give his reasons for writing down the conceptual and methodological moves on the overall integrity of the work of the dissertation. This is the **Self-Conscious Method.**

Dissertation must make a substantive contribution to original scholarship. Dissertation must address a clear and explicit statement. Self-Conscious Method—author should show an awareness of relationship between conceptual and methodological moves during study and final outcomes of the study. Author should five good reason your showings of the bearing on the overall integrity of the work. Author should demonstrate connection between method and meaning. Author reflects layers and complexity of process of dissertation as it unfolds from conceptualization, to finished product. The self-conscious method is means for justifying the moves made within all other qualities expected of a doctoral dissertation, from conceptualization, to literature review, to argument to form. A document dissertation is independent research relationship to evidence and argument a doctoral dissertation that makes claims that are supported be argument by argument and evidence. **A PROPOSAL** IS A PIECE OF WRITING THAT OUTLINES THE PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED BOUNDARIES FOR THE SORTER SETS THE CLAIMS THAT WILL BE MADE AND ARTICULATES THE METHODS BY WHICH THOSE CLAIMS WILL BE SUPPORTED BE EVIDENCE AND ARGUMENT.

Most arguments are not unitary entities—they are a complex network of ideas noteworthy such as conclusion, explanation, interpretation, results, and findings, which are among the terms that are commonly used in place of claims and the term phenomena can be substituted for data with no loss of meaning.